

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

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**1. Name of Property**

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historic name: Jonathan Peale House

other names/site number: VDHR File No. 082-0032

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**2. Location**

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street & number: 67 Cross Keys Road not for publication N/A

city or town: Harrisonburg vicinity X

state: Virginia code VA county: Rockingham code 165 zip code: 22801

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**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this: X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	Signature of the Keeper _____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register	Date of Action _____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	

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## 5. Classification

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

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## 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:

DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub:

Single dwelling  
Secondary structure  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:

DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub:

Single dwelling  
Secondary structure  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: STONE:Limestone  
Roof: METAL  
Walls: BRICK  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X        A      Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B      Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X        C      Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D      Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A    owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B    removed from its original location.
- C    a birthplace or a grave.
- D    a cemetery.
- E    a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F    a commemorative property.
- G    less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

       MILITARY

       ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**       circa 1845-1934      

**Significant Dates**       circa 1845; 1862      

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above):       N/A      

**Cultural Affiliation**       N/A      

**Architect/Builder:**       Unknown      

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office  
\_\_\_ Other State agency  
\_\_\_ Federal agency  
\_\_\_ Local government  
\_\_\_ University  
\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property:** approximately 2.5 Acres

### UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing				
A	17	691188	4251411	B	17	691244	4251330	C	17	691196	4251264	D	17	691115	4251320

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: William Wonneberger(JMU Student 1996); Updated by: F. Bruce Forward III  
organization: Forward Properties LLC date: June 15, 2007  
street & number: 123 Cross Keys Road telephone: 540-433-5182  
city or town: Harrisonburg state: Virginia zip code: 22801

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Forward Properties LLC/ F. Bruce Forward III, Manager  
street & number: P.O. Box 207 telephone: 540-433-5182  
city or town: Penn Laird state: Virginia zip code: 22846

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 1**

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

The Jonathan Peale House is located five miles east of Harrisonburg, Virginia at the intersection of the U.S. Route 33 and VA Route 276, an intersection referred to as Peale's Crossroads. The house, which is located at the southeast corner of the crossroads, is an unusual example of Greek Revival-style architecture incorporated into a classic center hall-plan building constructed circa 1845. The two-and-a-half-story, five-bay-wide dwelling makes for a striking building near the road, with a facade accented by a central two-story gabled portico supported by stucco-covered Tuscan columns. The portico shelters the central entries on both floors, which are framed by pilasters and feature paneled doors, sidelights, and paneled dados. The facade is further detailed with molded wood surrounds, louvered wood shutters, and a molded brick cornice. Most striking is the staggered Flemish-bond brick pattern of the facade, in which the headers are staggered vertically in the pattern. The rear and side elevations are laid in five-course American-bond brickwork. The chimney stacks on the side elevations are set within the stepped brick parapets. The house is set on a limestone foundation. The rear elevation features a two-story, full-width gallery porch supported by stucco-covered masonry columns. The interior retains much of its original material, and the floor plan is little altered from the original with the exception of the inclusion of bathrooms and two small closets. Interior finishes include wooden floors and plaster walls with wainscoting.

The Jonathan Peale House is notable for its fine interior woodwork and its striking exterior brickwork. Only minor alterations have been made to the house in its more than 150-year history. Many of these changes date to the early twentieth century when the Forward family purchased the property. According to Ann Terrell Baker's book *Old Houses of Rockingham County Revisited, 1750-1850*, it was during the Forwards' ownership that the original woodwork was refinished and many of the original mantelpieces were replaced with more elaborate mantels that were modeled after those in a nearby house. Some of the windows may have been replaced at this time, as well, although several are the original sashes and replacements have been sympathetic. All windows retain the original deep, paneled openings on the interior. On the exterior, minor remedial brickwork, including the rebuilding of a chimney stack, has taken place that is sympathetic in color, texture, and proportion to the original. During the mid-twentieth century, the rear two-story open porch was enclosed for use as an interior gallery. The details and form of the porch, however, were retained.

Among the outbuildings associated with the property is the unusually refined mid-nineteenth-century brick slave quarter, which is located north of the dwelling. The building is a two-story structure that features the same brick stepped-parapet end walls of the main house. The slave quarter is set on a fieldstone foundation and with walls laid in a six-course American-bond brick pattern. The building, believed from its construction and architectural details to be contemporaneous with the dwelling, is notable as a rare surviving example of a slave quarter in the Shenandoah Valley.

Other associated secondary resources on the property include a contributing mid-nineteenth-century stone-lined well with 20<sup>th</sup> century brick housing and a non-contributing garage, built circa 1960. The remnants of an early-twentieth-century tennis court, located on the northern edge of the property, is considered a contributing site.

**INVENTORY**

Dwelling	Contributing Building, circa 1845
Well	Contributing Structure, mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century with late 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing
Slave Quarter	Contributing Building, mid-19 <sup>th</sup> century

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 2**

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**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

Although the Jonathan Peale House is located very close to the road (Route 276- Cross Keys Road) large boxwoods shield the house and its associated quarters from the roadway. A large yard is located behind the house and the early-twentieth-century tennis court is located at the eastern edge of the yard. The surrounding land is agricultural, although the parcel west of the house has been commercially developed. The nominated property consists of the dwelling, a well, the slave quarters, a garage, and the remains of an early-twentieth-century tennis court.<sup>1</sup>

**EXTERIOR DETAILS**

The Jonathan Peale House, which faces slightly northwest, is a two-and-a-half-story, five-bay-wide, brick dwelling that is covered by a standing-seam metal side gable roof with stepped-parapet ends. The house is set on a high basement of fieldstone, and the brick walls are laid in a staggered Flemish bond on the front, and five-course American bond on the sides. Windows are nine-over-six double-hung sash. Metal shutter dogs are located near the sill of each window, although the shutters have been removed and currently are being restored. The side elevations are three bays deep. Two exterior brick chimneys, laid in a five-course American-bond pattern, are located on either end of the dwelling. A two-story, pedimented portico shelters the centrally located entrance, which features a six-panel door that is surrounded by a multi-light transom, multi-light sidelights, wooden panels, and fluted pilasters. The doorway to the balcony on the second floor is identical to the main entrance. The portico is supported by stucco columns, which feature vernacular interpretations of Tuscan capitals and are set on a stone pier foundation. Other details of the porches, both the first level and the second level, include wooden coffered ceilings and decorative wooden balusters.

A full-width, two-story porch is located across the rear (southeast side) of the dwelling. Six double-height stucco columns set on raised stone pedestals support the standing-seam metal shed roof of the porch. During the mid-twentieth century, the lower level was screened in and the upper level was enclosed with weatherboard. Both levels of the porch retain their open, gallery spaces on the interior and the overall form of the original porch is maintained. Originally, both porches were open and vines were allowed to grow along metal railings to provide shade. The basement is accessible from the ground level beneath the porch structure. The house has a perimeter dimension of 49' 4" x 43' 2".

**INTERIOR DETAILS**

The Peale house has a center-passage, double-pile plan. The first and second floors contain 2,122 square feet, while living space is also located in the basement. The attic is used for storage. The first floor consists of a parlor and dining room on the front and a kitchen and guest room with bath on the rear. The latter spaces originally served as a second parlor and a study, respectively. The study was converted into a kitchen in the early twentieth century and then was converted as a guest room. Doorways open onto the rear gallery porch from the center hall, the kitchen, and the guest room. Original fireplaces with mantels are still extant in the parlor and dining room. Original door hardware is extant and the plaster walls with paneled wainscoting are in good to excellent condition. Floors are of hardwood and window openings are framed with deeply paneled reveals. The brick interior walls are twelve-to-eighteen inches thick.

The open center hall stairs lead from the first floor to a second-floor landing that opens both to the west (front) and to the east (rear) sides of the dwelling. The second floor, similar to the first floor, contains four main rooms. Three of the rooms

are used as bedrooms, while the northwest room is used presently as a family room. Fireplaces are located in each of the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 3**

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rooms. Two baths have been installed on this floor and closets have been built into two of the rooms; otherwise, the spaces retain their original proportions. The mantel and closet in the family room appear to be original to the space. The second-floor enclosed gallery at the rear is accessed by doors from the center hall and the two rear bedrooms. Access to the front portico porch is also from the center hall.

The center hall stairs continue to the attic level, a full-height space. The original framing has been enclosed behind plywood boards, but two small openings allow for viewing of the milled rafters and floor joists. The full-height basement level, which can be accessed by a door at the rear of the center hall on the first floor, contains six individual rooms consisting of a furnace room, a former bedroom, a bathroom, a laundry room, a recreation room, and walk-in freezer. When F. Bruce Forward, Sr. remodeled the house in the 1940s, the openings in the limestone foundation of the porch were filled with brick to create two large storage rooms under the porch. Part of the basement has been used as living quarters and, most recently, was a rented apartment. At present, the space is being renovated and is used largely to house utilitarian appliances such as laundry, water heaters, and a furnace. The thick walls are stone and most have been plastered on the interior. A spring formerly flowed through the southeastern room of the basement, which was located beneath the first-floor kitchen. In former times, the dumbwaiter was used to lower dairy and other products to the basement where they were cooled by the spring.

Only minor alterations have been made to the Peale house in its more than 150-year history. Many of these changes date to the early twentieth century, when the Forward family purchased the property. At that time, the original woodwork was stripped and finished with a clear varnish. The attic door displays some decorative detailing and it may have been that the refinishing of the woodwork removed some additional graining in the house, but this is not known for certain. Many of the original mantels were replaced with more elaborate mantels that were remodeled after those in a nearby home. An original mantel, featuring a modest shelf and not highly decorative, is located in the second-floor, northeast bedroom. The replacement mantels, which feature a deep, stepped shelf and panels are typical of the period and are seen in houses throughout the area. Though not original to the house, they are architecturally appropriate. Some of the windows may have been replaced in the mid-twentieth century, but many are original sashes. All windows retain the original deep, paneled openings on the interior. Bathrooms have been installed on the first and second floors and two closets constructed. On the exterior, minor remedial brickwork, including the rebuilding of a chimney stack, has taken place that is sympathetic in color, texture, and proportion to the original. The house retains remarkable overall integrity, especially with regard to materials and workmanship.

**SECONDARY RESOURCES**

Slave Quarter—Contributing Building

The two-story, three-bay-wide, brick slave quarter, located about 50 feet north of the house, is covered by a gable roof of standing-seam metal that features brick stepped-parapet end walls and an exterior chimney on each end. The building is believed to have been built contemporaneously with the house and reflects the same construction methods with less ornate but similar architectural detailing. The building is laid in six-course American-bond brickwork and is set on a fieldstone foundation. A one-story ell or a porch was formerly attached to the rear of the quarter. The centrally located entrance, which faces Route 276 to the west, is sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. The building is currently undergoing renovation. All windows have been replaced with six-over-six vinyl sashes. Tie rods have been used to stabilize some movement of

the building, which is evident from a large crack near the chimney on the south end wall. Work has been completed to stabilize the movement in the wall and remedial brickwork, sympathetic to the original materials, is underway.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 7 Page 4**

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The slave quarter consists of two rooms on the first floor and two on the second floor, each with a fireplace or stove flue. The first floor is supported by rough logs. The interior walls are painted/whitewashed plaster and the ceiling is whitewashed boards nailed over conventional floor joists. The rafters are connected by lap joints which are joined with three nails. When it was no longer a slave quarter, the building served as storage for the main house for many years. The full-height basement is accessible from the north end. Other work will include reinforcement of the floor joists.

Well—Contributing Structure

The lower level of the house opens to a patio of stone slabs with the yard beyond. The path leading to the garage area from the patio wraps around an original hand-dug well. The well is no longer used as the house utilizes a spring located on the north side of U.S. Route 33. The well, believed to be built in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, has brick housing built by the current owner and has a brick walkway that leads to the parking/garage area south of the dwelling.

Tennis Court—Contributing Site

The remnants of an early-twentieth-century tennis court are located east behind the house along the northern edge of the property. The northern part of the court was demolished during the widening of Route 33, so that only about half of the court remains. A stone retaining wall is located on the east and south sides of the court. The present owner states that this is where the spectators would sit during matches.

Garage—Non-contributing Building

Constructed around 1960, the one-story garage is clad in weatherboard and features an asphalt-shingled shed roof. It sits on a concrete foundation and is accessed by three, open, wood-post-supported bays. The garage has an earthen floor.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 5**

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Jonathan Peale House is recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The dwelling is eligible under Criterion A in military significance for its association with the Civil War, since documentation shows that the house was used as Confederate General Stonewall Jackson's headquarters in April 1862. During a diversionary tactic to prevent General Irvin McDowell's Union forces from reinforcing General George McClellan's forces in their siege of Richmond, General Jackson's forces of approximately 15,000 men at full strength were sent to create disruptions, forcing Union troops to guard Washington and the western areas of Virginia. Jackson and his staff quartered in the Peale House, while the troops bivouacked in the field across the road, where Jonathan Peale's father Bernard had built a tannery.

The house, built for Jonathan Peale circa 1845, is significant under Criterion C as an example of an architectural expression of wealth and status in the Shenandoah Valley during the 1840s. While exhibiting typical elements of the Greek Revival style, the scale and quality of those elements at the Peale House make it stand out as an exceptional building. Those elements include the unusual staggered Flemish-bond brickwork on its façade; the grand two-story, pedimented portico; the six graceful columns at the rear rising more than 25 feet and running the full width of the house; the elegant interior staircase in the center hall; and the noteworthy interior woodwork that includes wainscoting, paneled window reveals, and doors.

Also of note is the mid-nineteenth-century brick slave quarter located about 50 feet north of the dwelling. The unusually refined slave quarter is a two-story building that features the same brick stepped-parapet end walls of the main house. It is set on a fieldstone foundation with walls laid in a six-course American-bond brick pattern. The building, believed from its construction and architectural details to be contemporaneous with the dwelling, is notable as a rare surviving example of a slave quarter in the Shenandoah Valley and particularly in Rockingham County. Records indicate that Jonathan Peale was a slave owner, and after the Civil War his household included many domestic servants, some of whom most likely resided in the former slave quarter.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND<sup>2</sup>**

Because two fires destroyed much of the Rockingham County Circuit Court records, a complete chain of title for the Peale property cannot be determined. The following historical background has been pieced together from various primary and secondary sources to give an overview of the historical occupation and ownership of the nominated property.

The 1936 Works Progress Administration of the Virginia Historical Inventory (WPA) report for the Jonathan Peale House states that in 1768 the land on which the house stands was part of a 394-acre survey owned by Joseph Rutherford.<sup>3</sup> The land on which the house was built was originally acquired by Bernard Peale, father of Jonathan Peale, from Charles Lewis on November 19, 1811. The WPA report states that Jonathan Peale acquired the property in 1831, most likely through inheritance, and it is believed that he began construction on his house between 1840 and 1845.<sup>4</sup> Tax records for the County of Rockingham indicate that the house was first recognized on the tax roles in January of 1846, where a notation describes a \$1,500.00 improvement as a new house. Long before Bernard Peale purchased property at the crossroads, the area had been established as a trading center. As early as 1774 Felix Gilbert was operating a store at the road junction that would later become known as Peale's Cross Roads. Other businesses, including a tanyard, operated at the crossroads in the years following.<sup>5</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 6**

Jonathan Peale, who financed the construction of the dwelling and lived there until his death in 1874, was born in the Shenandoah Valley and baptized in New Market, Virginia. While no records of formal education have been found, Peale was clearly well established in his understanding of the law as he served as justice of the peace in Rockingham County and was often listed as a trustee or executor to estates many times in Rockingham County transactions. Peale was a prominent businessman and respected community member who was adept at maintaining his social and business ties. Peale also was a prosperous farmer who died intestate in 1874; the probate of his estate that resulted is a telling source. An extensive listing of individuals who owed Peale a total of \$3,544.53 testifies to his wealth and influence in the community. While he lived there, the Peale House was a center of local social life. The grand hallway and elegant furnishings of the Peale House are indicative of Peale's desire to impress and entertain. The house was described as "a center of social life and gaiety, where hospitality was dispensed with a lavish hand."<sup>6</sup>

Additional records indicate that Jonathan Peale was a slave owner. According to personal property records of the Rockingham County Auditor of Public Accounts, in 1839 Peale owned five slaves above the age of 16. By 1847, Peale owned 15 slaves. The slave schedule of the 1850 census, however, shows that in that year Peale owned 10 slaves, only five of whom were above the age of 16. Although the census did not record names of the slaves, their age, sex, and color were recorded. In 1850, Peale owned two 60-year-old black male slaves, one 40-year-old black female slave, one 40-year-old mulatto female slave, and one 25-year-old black female slave. Five children ages 10 to 1 were also listed in the census.<sup>7</sup>

The agricultural schedule of the 1850 census also reveals the prosperity of Peale's farm. In that census, Peale is listed as owning 250 acres of improved land and 175 acres of unimproved land with a cash value of \$8,614. The value of Peale's farm implements and machinery is listed as \$350. Among his livestock, Peale held 9 horses, 6 milk cows, 39 other cattle, 37 sheep, and 30 swine with a total value of \$1,050. The milk cows produced 350 pounds of butter that year and the sheep yielded 60 pounds of wool. The Peale farm produced 500 bushels each of wheat, Indian corn, and oats. Smaller amounts of peas, beans, and potatoes were produced and were probably for personal consumption. Hay and clover were grown on the farm and were probably used to feed the livestock. Peale's farm appears to have been a fairly diverse, self-sufficient operation.<sup>8</sup>

The area of Rockingham County in which the Peale House is located was the scene of much military activity throughout the Civil War including two nearby battles—one at Cross Keys and one at Port Republic. It was the spring prior to the Battle at Cross Keys (June 1862) that Confederate General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson is known to have stayed at the home of Jonathan Peale, where he made his headquarters. In 1862, as a diversionary tactic to prevent General Irvin McDowell's Union forces from reinforcing General George McClellan's forces in their siege of Richmond, General Jackson's forces of approximately 15,000 men at full strength were sent to create disruptions, forcing the Union troops to guard Washington and the western areas of Virginia. The accomplishments of Jackson and his famous "Foot Cavalry" are legendary, particularly the battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic. Here Jackson faced off against three armies, each the size of his own, causing four times the casualties and major embarrassment for the Union forces. On April 18, 1862, (Check on this date—it was written as April 19<sup>th</sup> on significant dates) according to the diary of Jedediah Hotchkiss, who was Jackson's mapmaker: "The general and part of his staff dined at 'Hill Top', the home of Rev. WM. Henry Ruffner, then remained for a time of the High Commanding hill south of Harrisonburg, and then, late in the day, rode to Keezletown and took quarters at Mr. Peale's."<sup>9</sup> Jackson's army camped on Peale's land, occupying the area where his father Bernard Peale had built a tannery in the field located west and across Route 276 from the Peale House.

In the coming weeks, the Peale House remained the headquarters for much of Jackson's military activity in the area due to its location at Peale's Crossroads and its proximity to Massanutten Mountain. On two other occasions, Hotchkiss refers to

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 7**

traveling to the Peale House to meet people or to pick up instructions.<sup>10</sup> There can be no doubt that preparations for the upcoming battles of Cross Keys and Port Republic were in a large way conducted in association with Peale and his property.

During the Civil War, the Peale House was a command center for Confederate forces during both battles. The house afforded a good view in both directions from its porches. The house is also situated near Massanutten Mountain, which afforded a view of the valley indispensable for observing the armies of General Fremont, General Banks, and General Shields as they attempted to close in on Jackson's army. Jackson moved his headquarters to Madison Hall in Port Republic just before the battle, but maintained the Peale House as a command center and hospital during the Battle of Cross Keys.<sup>11</sup> Hotchkiss mentions the Peale House three separate times in his journal. First on April 18<sup>th</sup>, he stated that Jackson stayed at the house in one of the bedrooms while his army camped across the road around the tannery built by Bernard Peale. This event is recorded in several concurring sources. In a 1936 interview, Mrs. John B. Peale, daughter-in-law of Jonathan Peale, reflected that, "Mrs. Peale, an ardent southerner, furnished supper and lodgings to Jackson and his officers--about 60 in all. Jackson, of course, occupied one of the bedrooms. The younger officers rolled themselves in their blankets and slept in the halls and on the long porches."<sup>12</sup> On two other occasions, Hotchkiss was dispatched to the Peale House. One of these times, on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> 1862, he recorded: "Went to Peale's in the morning and sent a signal man to 'the peak'. Communicated some from Peale's; then, as the enemy was reported advancing, up Keezletown road, went to near Cross Keys and established communication to that point from 'the peak.'"<sup>13</sup>

After Jonathan Peale's death in 1874, his widow Margaret received a dower in the property including some timber land and the "Mansion House, and all the buildings" on the 77-acre tract described as the Home Farm, which was adjacent to the Rockingham Turnpike Road (Route 33).<sup>14</sup> The remainder of Peale's land holdings were partitioned among his children—A.N., Edward, Eugene, John B., Sallie, and Walter—as well as two other devisees (Bishop and Thurman). Margaret Peale, Jonathan's second wife, was well loved by her neighbors as well. The 1870 census lists Margaret's household as containing her four children—Eugene, a teacher, and Sallie, John B., and Walter, all in school—as well as several domestic servants. Among the latter were Anna Baugh, a 28-year-old German immigrant, and her two young children. Also listed in the household were Harriet Harrison, 25, and her two children, Hannah [Smith], 55, and her daughter and son. Anna Baugh, Harriet Harrison, and Hannah Harrison were listed as domestic servants. Hannah Smith's 16-year-old son, Price, was listed as working on the farm. The 1890 census recorded that Sallie Peale had married and moved from the home, but her brothers remained in their mother's home. Annie Baugh and her children were still listed as part of the Peale household, as was Hannah Smith. Kate Rife and George Pierce also were listed as servants in the household.<sup>15</sup>

On January 30, 1891, Margaret Peale died and was eulogized by the pastor of the Massanutten Presbyterian Church:

Mrs. Peale, relict of the late Jonathan Peale Esq. of Peale's Crossroads, Rockingham County VA., fell asleep in Jesus, January 30<sup>th</sup> 1891, at the residence of her son...Mrs. Peale was a faithful member of the Massanutten Presbyterian Church. Her prayers and efforts were constantly given to promote the cause of Christ not only to the bounds of her own church, but for the gospel throughout the world. All who knew her well, loved and admired her. She was an excellent neighbor, a cherished friend, a devoted mother, and an earnest Christian and one whose influence was strongly felt for the good in all classes of society.<sup>16</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 8**

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After Margaret's death, the property reverted through Deed of Trust to the ownership of S. H. Moffett and Granville Easthaus. In 1927, the property was sold at auction as part of the settlement of a chancery suit and T.R. Clatterbuck purchased the property. It was sold the same day to John B. Peale for \$10,500. In 1934, John B. Peale died and willed the property to his wife Florence. During her lifetime, Florence conveyed the property to Harry P. Roth and Lanelle E. Roth. F. Bruce Forward acquired the property from the Roths in 1943 and the property is currently owned by Forward Properties, LLC. F. Bruce Forward III and his wife Melissa and children live in the historic dwelling.

The Peale House also is eligible under Criterion C as a mid-nineteenth-century example of the Greek Revival style. The house possesses two of the hallmarks found in such antebellum houses in the Shenandoah Valley: the stepped-parapet end wall and the grand, two-story portico.<sup>18</sup> Other notable architectural details include the use of Flemish-bond brickwork pattern on the facade (used here in the regional variant of a staggered Flemish-bond pattern), six-panel entrance door with transom and sidelights, and attenuated elements on the stair balusters and newel. The double-height portico and rear two-story porch also exhibit Greek Revival styling with their vernacular interpretations of classical elements.

As noted in the 2000 architectural survey of Rockingham County, the Greek Revival style gained popularity during the first part of the nineteenth century and, while often associated with governmental buildings and monuments, the style also became popular for even the most modest of rural farmhouses.<sup>19</sup> The style is noted as "extremely popular" for dwellings in Rockingham County. The Peale House is a notable example of the style in the county for its inclusion of numerous characteristic details of the style, as noted above, and as a fairly unaltered example.

The associated slave quarter, which is a contributing component of to the nominated property, appears to be contemporaneous with the main dwelling and is a rare surviving example in the Shenandoah Valley. Architectural evidence of the framing and brickwork indicate an early- to mid-nineteenth-century construction date. The building is unusual as a two-story, brick example and for its refined architectural style that mimics some of the details of the mansion house. Previous survey in the county indicates that several different building types were used to house slaves including one-room, frame buildings that were square in plan and two-room buildings with a centrally located chimney between the rooms. The Peale House slave quarter represents another type of dwelling—the double-pen, two-story dwelling. In this dwelling type, the first floor often served as a kitchen with the sleeping space on the upper floor. The county survey report states that after the Civil War, many former slaves' houses continued to be occupied by their residents. At the Peale House, it appears that domestic servants, who were not former slaves, probably occupied this dwelling.<sup>20</sup> Slave quarters are not often seen in this area of the Shenandoah Valley since many of the residents worked their own land and many opposed slavery for religious reasons. In Rockingham County, the number of slaves was minimal compared to eastern Virginia.

The mid-nineteenth-century stone-lined well, located near the house and also recommended as a contributing element, is the only other element that dates to the same period as the dwelling. Brick housing was added to the well in the late twentieth century.

The Peale House is a fine example of Rockingham County's antebellum domestic architecture that retains a high level of overall integrity. The interior, as well as the exterior, retains much of its original integrity with regard to workmanship, design, materials, and overall floor plan. While some elements have been replaced on the dwelling, including some windows and mantels, they have been replaced with appropriate elements that retain the feeling of the period. In addition,

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 9**

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known as Cross Keys Road. This development, however, does not significantly detract from the outstanding architectural character of this resource or its ability to convey its historical significance.

Although an archaeological survey of the main house and surrounding building has not been conducted, archaeological investigations could yield information about mid-nineteenth-century material culture related to domestic life and African-American lifeways. Also, the potential exists for more information related to the Civil War activity that occurred on the property.

**ENDNOTES**

1. Information in the architectural analysis and description has been taken from the VDHR Intensive Survey Form completed in 2005. This information supplemented the draft nomination form completed by William Wonneberger in 1996.
2. Information in the historical background has been taken from the VDHR Intensive Form completed in 2005. This information supplemented the draft nomination form completed by William Wonneberger in 1996.
3. George Fetzer, Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory, "Report 28, The Peale Place." Microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond.
4. Information from "The Rockingham Register", references in Historic Harrisonburg by John W. Wayland, Old Houses in Rockingham County 1750 to 1850 by Isaac Long Terrell and The Heartland by Nancy B. Hess.
5. Rockingham County Burnt Deed Book 13:1839; Wayland 1912.
6. Ann Terrell Baker, 144.
7. United States Census Office, 7th Census, 1850, Slave Schedule, Rockingham County, Virginia, Microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond.  
Rockingham County, Auditor of Public Accounts, Personal Property Records, 1839-1847. Microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond.
8. United States Census Office, 7th Census, 1850, Agricultural Schedule, Rockingham County, Virginia. Microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond.
9. Jedediah Hotchkiss, 26.
10. Hotchkiss, 52, 89.
11. Betty Skeen, 24.
12. Mrs. John B. (Florence) Peale, Interviewed by George Fetzer, 1936.

13. Hotchkiss, 52.

NPS Form 10-900-a  
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 8 Page 10**

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14. Rockingham County Deed Book (RCDB) 11: 1874.
15. United States Census Office, 9th Census, 1870, Rockingham County, Virginia. Microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond.  
United States Census Office, 10th Census, 1880, Rockingham County, Virginia. Microfilm, Library of Virginia, Richmond.
16. Family History, F. Bruce Forward III.
17. RCDB 38 1890; RCDB 137 1927b; RCDB 167 1936; RCDB 1311 1994.
18. E.H.T. Tracerics, 56.
19. E.H.T. Tracerics, 54.
20. E.H.T. Tracerics, 105-106.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 9 Page 11**

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Interview. April 15, 1996. F. Bruce Forward III, current owner. By: William Wonneberger.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section 10 Page 12**

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The property nominated as the Jonathan Peale House is the northwestern most 2.5 acres of a 64.682-acre tract (Deed Book 542:19; and Rockingham County GIS tax map number 126-(A)-L58) that is located east of Route 276. The Peale House is located at the southeastern corner of the intersection of Route 33 and Route 276. The National Register property boundaries extend from Route 33 south along Route 276 then eastward approximately 300 feet to a small rise in the land then north back to Route 33 and to the point of origin.

The boundaries for this property correspond to the polygon as marked on the enclosed USGS Quadrangle (Harrisonburg) map. The UTM points are as follows:

A 17 691188E 4251411N  
B 17 691244E 4251330N  
C 17 691196E 4251264N  
D 17 691115E 4251320N

**Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundaries include that portion of the property that contains the historic dwelling and its historically associated resources.



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section Photographic Data Page 13**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

All photographs 1 through 12 are of:  
JONATHAN PEALE HOUSE  
Rockingham County, Virginia  
VDHR File Number 082-0032  
Date of Photographs: September 2006  
Richard McCrary, Photographer

All negatives (23099, 23100, 23220, 23221, 23222) are stored with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.

VIEW: House, side view looking S  
Neg. No.: 23100:13  
Photo 1 of 12

VIEW: House, rear view looking W  
Neg. No.: 23099:21  
Photo 2 of 12

VIEW: Slave quarters/House, front and side view looking S  
Neg. No.: 23222:23  
Photo 3 of 12

VIEW: House, hallway to dining room look thru  
Neg. No.: 23220:5  
Photo 4 of 12

VIEW: House, main staircase  
Neg. No.: 23220:11  
Photo 5 of 12

VIEW: House, Interior door trim  
Neg. No.: 23220:8  
Photo 6 of 12

VIEW: Slave Quarters, front and side view looking NE  
Neg. No.: 23099:24  
Photo 7 of 12

VIEW: Slave quarters, side and back view looking NW  
Neg. No.: 23099:7  
Photo 8 of 12

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Jonathan Peale House  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**Section Photographic Data Page 14**

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VIEW: Slave quarters, Interior stairs  
Neg. No.: 23222:21  
Photo 9 of 12

VIEW: Slave quarters, Interior back wall/door  
Neg. No.: 23222:18  
Photo 10 of 12

VIEW: Tennis court remains, looking E  
Neg. No.: 23222:7  
Photo 11 of 12

VIEW: Garage, facing S  
Neg. No.: 23221:8  
Photo 12 of 12

The single digital photograph is an aerial view of the property showing the front of the house as this view is not easily taken from the ground with the high hedges running along the northwestern edge of the property to cut the view along Cross Keys Road, Route 276. This digital image was downloaded into the archive files of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 2005 and was most likely taken by the Virginia Department of Transportation in conjunction with a Harrisonburg Southeast Connector survey project, though it is not known for sure who took the image. The image is printed and saved as a tiff file on the attached CD.